



October 13, 2016

## New Fleet Support Team at FRCSE looks to make explosive impact

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Capt. Jaime Engdahl, program manager for PMA-201's Precision Strike Weapons program, holding scissors cuts a ribbon at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) celebrating the establishment of the new Aircraft Armament Equipment Fuel Containment Fleet Support Team (FST) Sept. 28 as other team members look on. By consolidating existing FSTs, it is estimated the Navy will save \$1.8 million each year and provide better efficiency to the warfighters. (U.S. Navy Photo)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A new Fleet Support Team (FST) formed at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) Sept. 28 will combine jet fuel and armaments in hopes of an explosion – of speed and efficiency.

The FST will help maintain and support bomb racks, missile launchers, external fuel tanks, air-to-air refueling systems and more – whether at FRCSE or anywhere else across the globe. FST members regularly travel thousands of miles to fix problems wherever their aircraft or components might be.

The move is a collaborative effort between PMA-201's Precision Strike Weapons Program Office and FRCSE.

"The whole move, from cost, to schedule, to performance is all about efficiency," said PMA-201 Chief Systems Engineer and Technical Director Juan Ortiz. "This is all aligned with speed to the fleet, and trying to get everything to the warfighter faster and cheaper,



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while still having good technical quality.

"The idea is to consolidate people, functions, resources and proximity so that everything goes to the warfighter more efficiently."

The move brings what was the Aircraft Armament Equipment (AAE) technical program office from Indianapolis to FRCSE at Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax). It puts the FST on the grounds of the largest industrial employer in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. FRCSE performs maintenance and overhauls for the Navy's aircraft, putting the FST within arms' reach of massive technical expertise and maintenance capabilities.

The relocation also aligns the Navy's initiative to move maintenance capabilities closer to the flight line in order to speed-up the process of returning aircraft more quickly to the fleet.

Each of the Navy's main tactical aircraft has its own FST. Most of these aircraft use the launchers, bomb racks and fuel tanks in which the new FST will specialize.

"One benefit the Navy gets out of the move is many of the FSTs that support platforms that carry the AAE equipment - such as the EA-6B Prowler, P-3 Orion, F/A-18 Hornet, and P-8A Poseidon - are physically located in Jacksonville as well," said Alexis Padilla, FRCSE's Systems Engineering Department Director. "The new AAE/FC FST will have direct access to the platform FSTs, thus improving collaboration."

The new team consists of 26 employees forming the Aircraft Armament Equipment/Fuel Container FST.

"On the engineering side, the FST's role will be maintaining the health of the components through structures, mechanical systems and electrical avionics," said FRCSE engineer John Giangaspro. "On the logistics side is sustainment, making sure that we're able to provide products and services to refurbish that equipment and get it back up to standard."

The team members are also responsible for updating publications, like repair and maintenance manuals that serve as instructions to the fleet.

"We'll be providing every aspect of service to make sure we can take care of this equipment, while being conscious of the American taxpayer and doing it as efficiently as possible," Giangaspro said.

Capt. Jaime Engdahl, program manager for PMA-201's Precision Strike Weapons program, was a driving force behind the creation of the combined FST.

"People have been looking at combining these departments for more than 20 years," Engdahl said. "The only way we were able to get this accomplished was because of the teamwork between our program office, NAS Jax and FRCSE."



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“I’m extraordinarily proud of how everyone came together to make this happen.”

The move is estimated to save the Navy \$1.8 million per year.



Capt. Jaime Engdahl, program manager for PMA-201’s Precision Strike Weapons program, right, speaks with members of PMA-201 and Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRCSE) employees at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new Fleet Support Team (FST) Sept. 28 at FRCSE. The new team combines the Aircraft Armament Equipment Technical program office with the Fuel Containment FST already at the facility. (U.S. Navy Photo)